

Meeting Summary

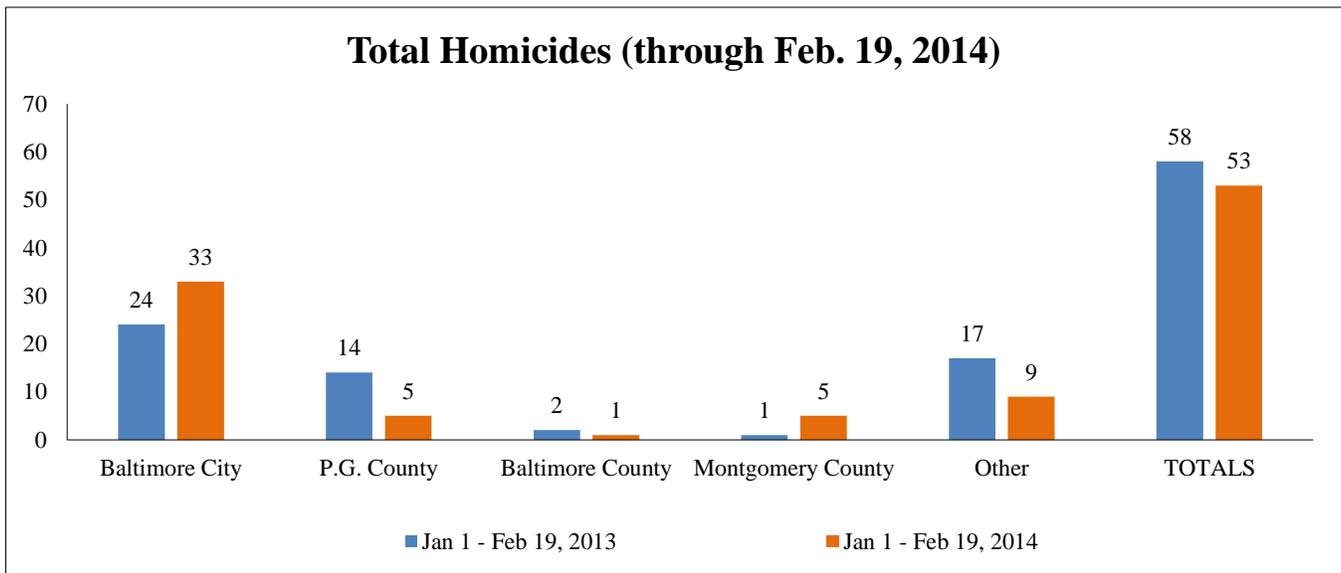
Following is a summary of the issues discussed at the Maryland State Police (MSP) Stat meeting on February 25, 2014. Analysis provided by StateStat.

Opening Remarks

- Colonel Brown from MSP began the meeting by discussing legislation this year relating to the state police.

Strategic Goal: Reduce Violent Crime in Maryland by 20% by End of 2018

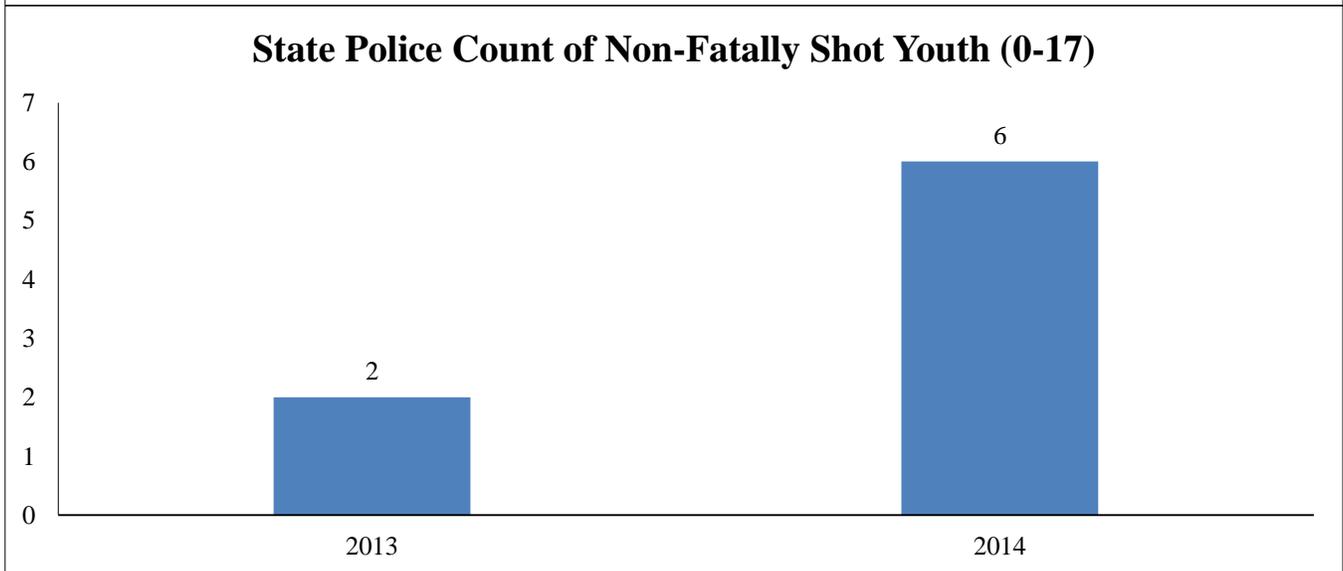
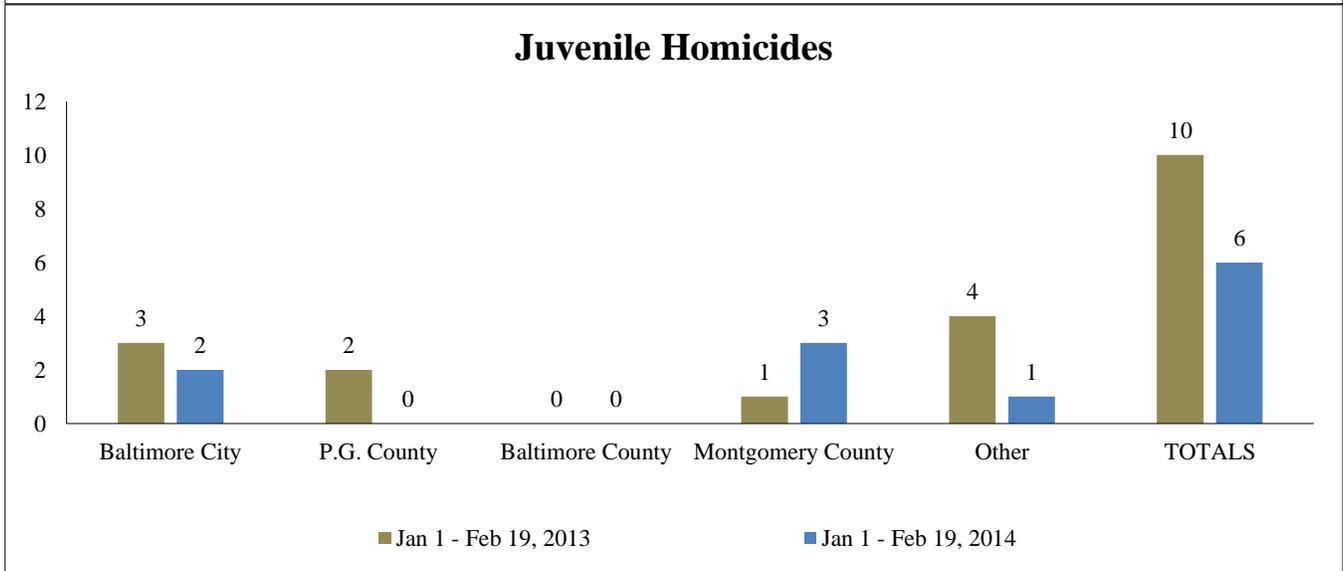
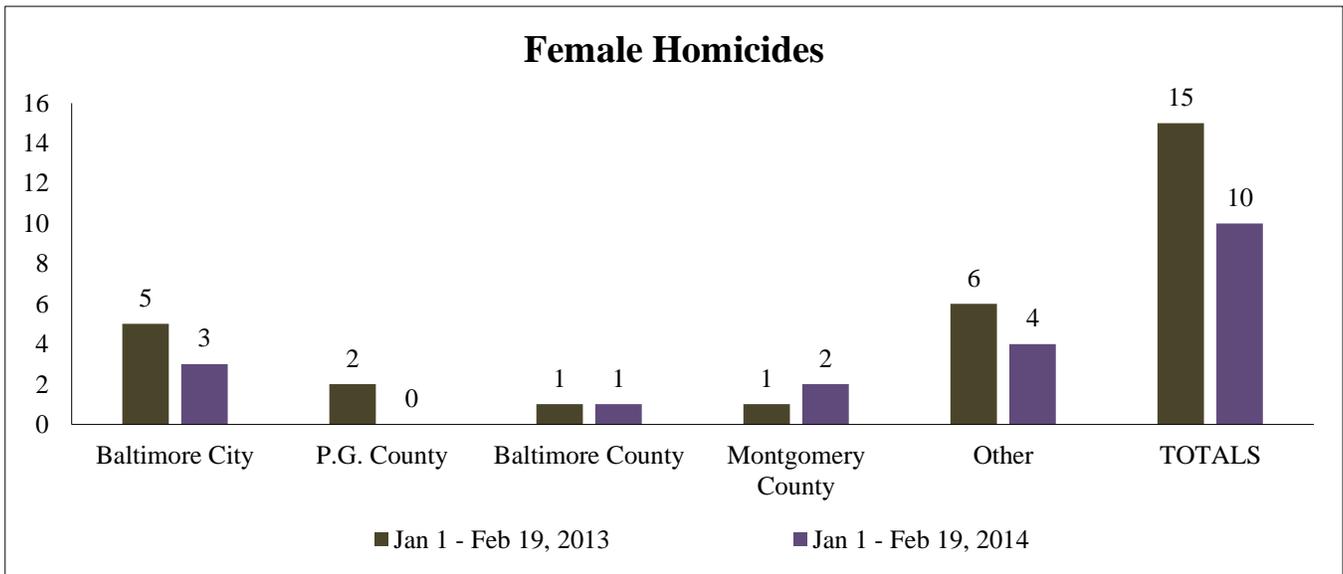
- Homicides by Jurisdiction (to date).** Through February 19, 2014, there has been a nine percent decrease in total homicides to date; in comparison to 2013. However, as discussed at the previous meeting, Baltimore city has had a significant increase of 38 percent in comparison to the previous year.



Strategic Goal: Reduce Violent Crime against Women and Children by 25% by End of 2018

- Tracking Violent Crime against Women and Children.** The Governor's Delivery Unit strategic goal to reduce violent crime against women and children was to reduce violent crime by 25 percent from 2006 to 2012. As of the end of 2012, juvenile homicides were driven down by 54 percent since 2006 and female homicides were driven down by 17 percent. Since the state met its initial goal, a new goal was set to reduce violent crime against women and children by 25 percent by the end of 2018; compared to 2012 levels.

Point in time data shows statewide female homicides and juvenile homicides have decreased by 33 percent and 40 percent respectively. However, it should be noted that there has been a 200 percent increase of non-fatal shootings amongst juveniles statewide with half occurring in Prince George's County.

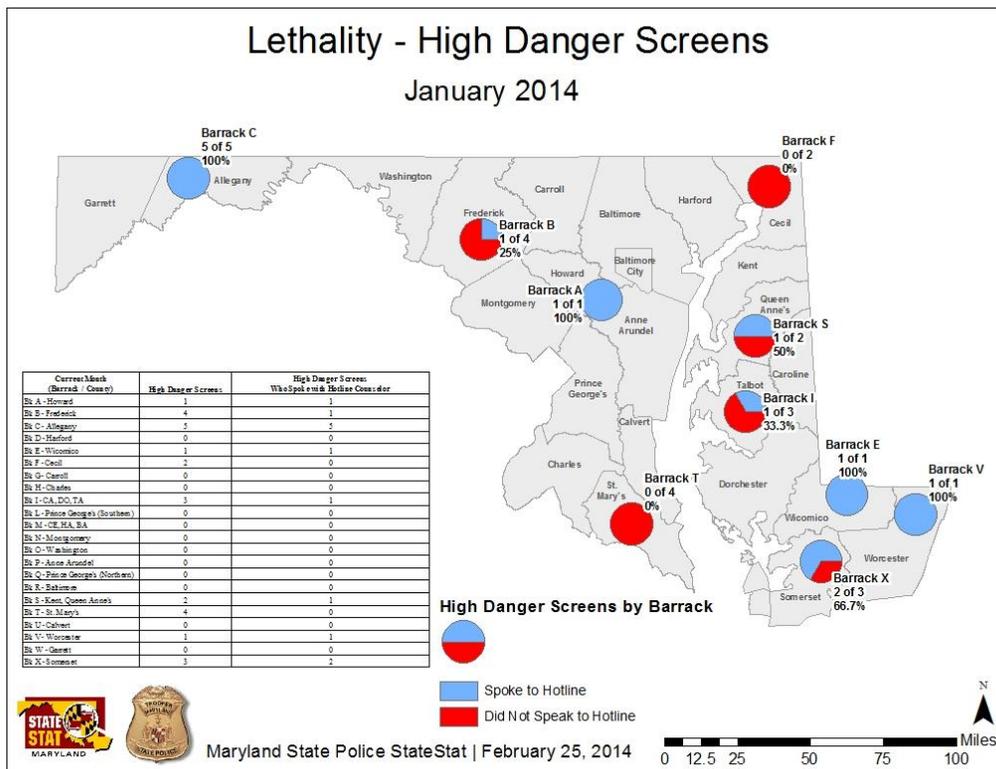


- Lethality Assessment Data.** MSP has been providing lethality assessment data in the reporting template over several months. This data includes domestic violence incident numbers as well as arrest, warrant, and

service data. As indicated by the table below, MSP has been tracking incidents, by barrack, where screenings have been done in circumstances listed as ‘High Danger’ and when the clients who have been screened as ‘High Danger’ have spoken with counselors. The assumption is that all those who are screened in this category have spoken with these hotline counselors. At the end of 2013, 59 percent of those screened as ‘High Danger’ had been linked with a hotline counselor. Through January 2014, 50 percent of ‘High Danger’ screens have spoken with a counselor.

As a result over a conversation at the previous meeting over lethality assessment screenings and domestic violence related homicides, a data match was done showing 2013 numbers (2nd map below). MSP was asked whether or not jurisdictions that did poorly in matching high danger screens to counselors also had high numbers of domestic violence related deaths. As indicated by the data, this is not the case; however, it should be noted that MSP only handled one tenth of the total domestic violence homicide cases in the state.

MSP points to training, documentation, and new staff coming on board for the worst-performing barracks. The training now walks through each step workers are supposed to take to get a victim in touch with a counselor.

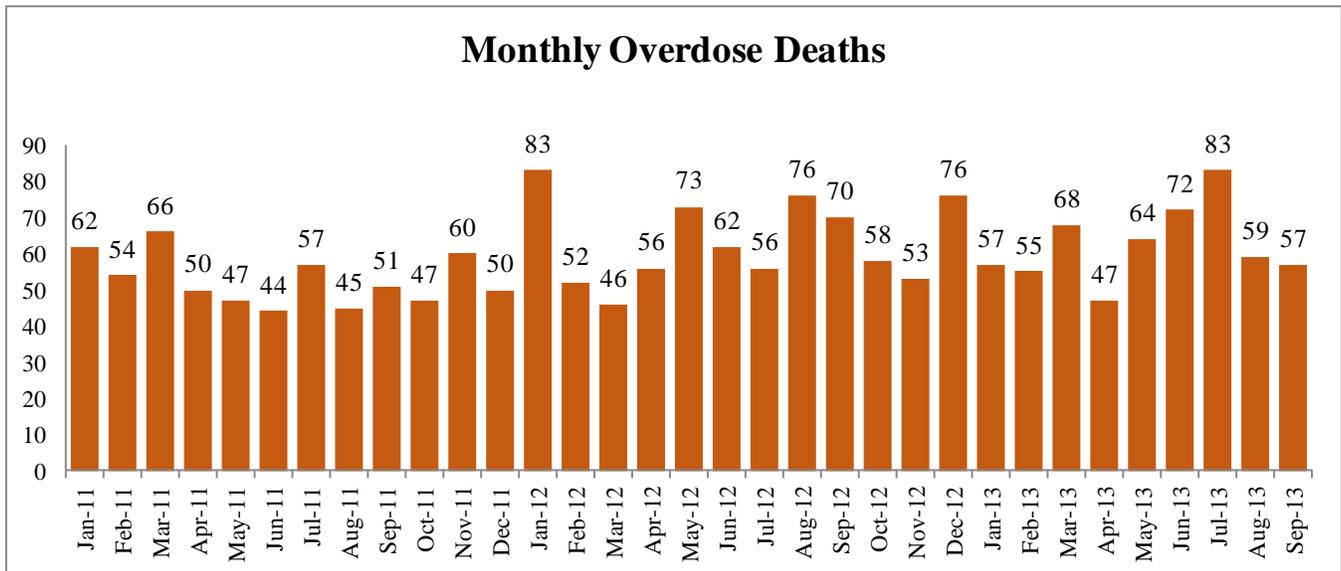


Strategic Goal: Reduce Overdose Deaths by 20% by the End of 2015

- **Fentanyl Laced Heroin.** Heroin laced with the synthetic opiate fentanyl is being blamed by officials for more than 80 deaths across the United States in recent weeks. Fentanyl, a narcotic used to control chronic pain, is about 80 times more powerful than morphine, doctors say. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) has been aware of fentanyl laced heroin killing users in other states several months ago and outreach has been taking place as a result of this information. Maryland's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reported that 37 deaths have occurred between September 2013 and the end of January 2014 as a result of fentanyl laced heroin. The 37 deaths account for 12 percent of the 318 overall overdose deaths during the same period.

It should be noted that as a result of an increase in the rise in heroin overdoses, the Baltimore/Washington High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) is requesting assistance in collecting information on any overdose that takes place in that region.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for Baltimore held a meeting two to three weeks ago to set up a new hotline through HIDTA, requesting all overdose cases containing fentanyl be reported. HIDTA and DHMH have been working closely with GOCCP to report real time data but StateStat will be following up on this matter.



- **Naloxone.** Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that can quickly restore the breathing of a person who has overdosed on opioids. Regulations for the Overdose Response Program that will allow individuals to be authorized to obtain and administer naloxone were published in the Maryland Register and the 30 day comment period ended on January 27, 2014. No substantive comments were received regarding the proposed regulations. The earliest date that Secretary Sharfstein of DHMH was able to sign the notice of final action was February 11th and the regulations are anticipated to go into effect March 3rd. DHMH is currently working with four counties to finalize their applications for programs that will train individuals (friends and family members of heroin users) on the use of Naloxone and distribute it to individuals successfully completing the training in the appropriate use of the potentially life-saving drug. Currently, with the exception of Baltimore City, only emergency medical technicians can administer the drug to an

individual who is overdosing. The National Association of Drug Investigators has declared its support for police officers carrying intranasal naloxone and other states and localities have laws and protections in place allowing naloxone to be administered by law enforcement and other emergency response personnel. MSP reports that as soon as the regulations are in place, MSP will work to arm its troopers with naloxone.

Follow-Up

- **MSP Twitter Account.** In light of the fact that there was a lack of updates being provided by the Maryland State Police twitter feed during the shootings at Columbia Mall on January 25, 2014, MSP was asked to provide an update on steps that will be taken to improve this process.

MSP reports that their Office of Media Communications (OMC) reinstated its use of the MSP Twitter account on February 3, 2014. OMC personnel were instructed on the use of Twitter and provided login credentials by personnel from the IT Division and Strategic Planning Command.

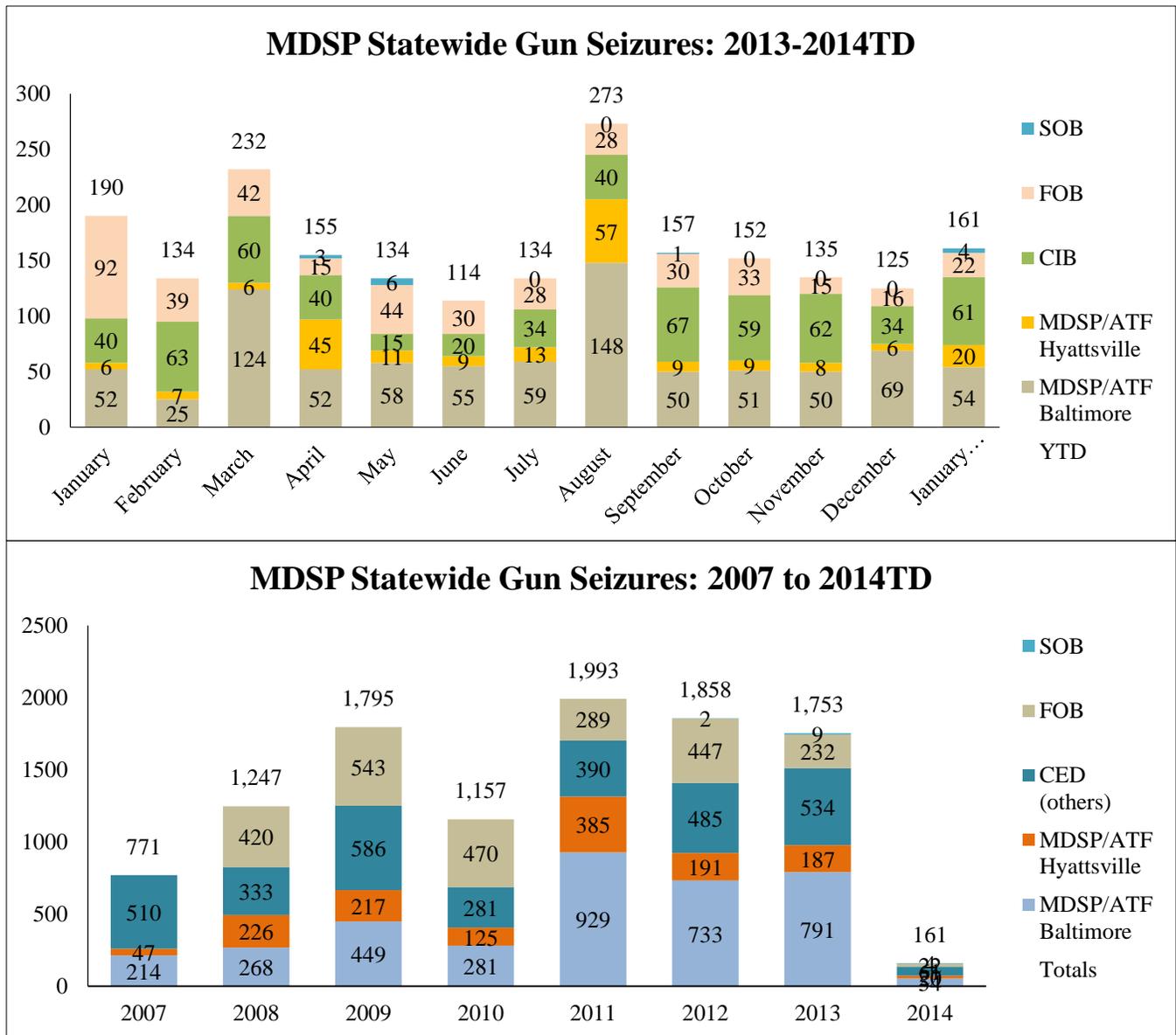
Information was provided to the public via Twitter during the first week of operation from the MSP and allied state agencies, including the State Highway Administration (SHA) and the MD Emergency Management Agency. OMC personnel began daily monitoring of the site and related social media accounts through Tweetdeck. The Department reports that MSP Twitter followers increased during the first week of operation. MSP also has been advised by the Delaware State Police to discuss their use of Twitter. OMC's continuing strategy related to MSP's Twitter use includes:

1. Contact with New Jersey State Police re: their Twitter use/policy;
2. Request for input from MSP command re: Twitter policy;
3. Development of MSP Twitter policy to be added to social media policy already under review;
4. Communication of MSP policy to command staff, divisions, barracks, and units;
5. Request for upgrade in OMC communication equipment to facilitate remote Twitter use.



Firearms

- Monthly Gun Seizures.** As indicated by the data, 1,753 guns were seized in 2013; which is the lowest number seized since 2010.



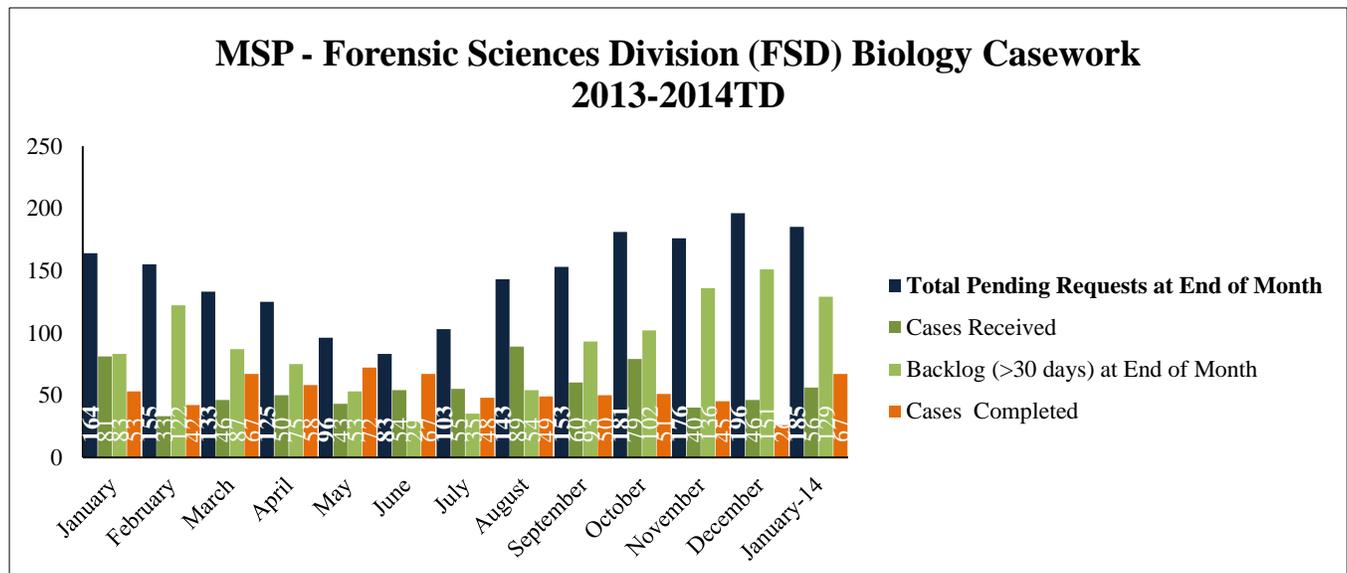
- Tracking the Handgun Application Backlog.** In CY2013, the MSP received approximately 121,600 applications to purchase a regulated firearm. The number of applications received from January to September exceeded all purchase applications in all of 2011 and 2012 combined. The backlog at its highest was over 59,000 applications. 101,333 total applications were processed in 2013 and 20,447 remain in the backlog. MSP estimated that this backlog would be eliminated by March 2014. MSP has been tracking internally the elimination of the backlog and reports have been provided to StateStat on a monthly basis.

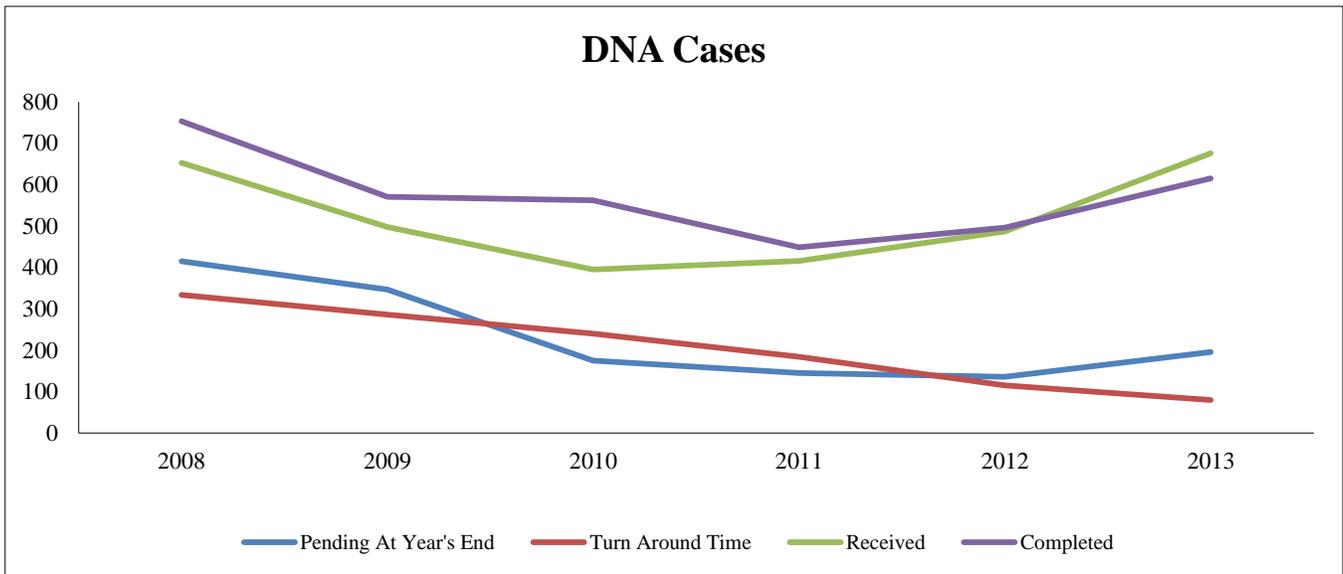
DNA Testing

- **Forensic Sciences Division MSP Casework.** Since June 2013, the total pending cases number for DNA casework has been steadily increasing. MSP has stated that increased and more thorough case work by officers in the field is the catalyst for this increase. In order to address this backlog, MSP has stated that they need to outsource cases and hire more staff at the forensic sciences division. MSP indicated at the previous Stat that 80 cases would be outsourced to address the high pending requests.

Members of the StateStat team visited the Forensic Sciences Division on Tuesday, February 18th. StateStat would like to thank Daniel Katz and his staff for a wonderful tour of the facility. During the tour, it was indicated that staff at the facility believe that 100 cases is the target for pending requests but they do not consider the pending number as a backlog. In addition, StateStat was advised to look at the turnaround time for cases and as indicated by the data in the second graph below, the turnaround time since 2008 has gradually decreased.

As a result of the discussions during the FSD tour, FSD and StateStat agreed that pending requests, cases received, etc. are not the best metrics. Alternatively, pending at year's end and turnaround time are better metrics. Ultimately the data template should track the age of the longest-open DNA cases. Col. Brown suggested coming up with talking points on what the data shows, and how it differs from the backlog which was cleared in Jan. 2008.





- Lab Analysis Delays in Baltimore city.** On February 20, 2014, The Baltimore Sun ran a report on a case where the Baltimore city crime lab took over a year to process a DNA sample due to a heavy backlog. Unfortunately, due to the delay in analysis, the suspect in this case went on to commit another crime before he could be arrested for his initial crime. StateStat was under the assumption that the Baltimore city Police Department (BPD) had access to the state DNA database and could receive assistance from MSP's forensic lab. When asked to explain why this incident occurred, MSP stated that this particular case was never in the MSP DNA casework backlog as it was only in the BPD DNA casework backlog.

MSP reports that in this case, it took less than a month to confirm the hit, which is about average. StateStat asked why BPD did not do anything before MSP provided verification. MSP reports that BPD did not get FSD the sample for 16 months, but FSD analyzed the sample only 30 days after receiving the sample. BPD only rarely asks FSD to prioritize certain samples and MSP reports that BPD is shrinking their own backlog; formerly 1,500 now down to 400. Once there is no backlog, the issue in this case would not be a repeat issue.

Lab analysis took more than a year to link Baltimore man to rape *Before arrest could be made, police say, man had raped again*

By **Justin Fenton**, The Baltimore Sun

8:03 p.m. EST, February 20, 2014

It took the Baltimore Police crime lab well over a year to link a Southeast Baltimore man to a 2012 rape because of a backlog in DNA analysis. Before officers could arrest him, police say, he attacked again.

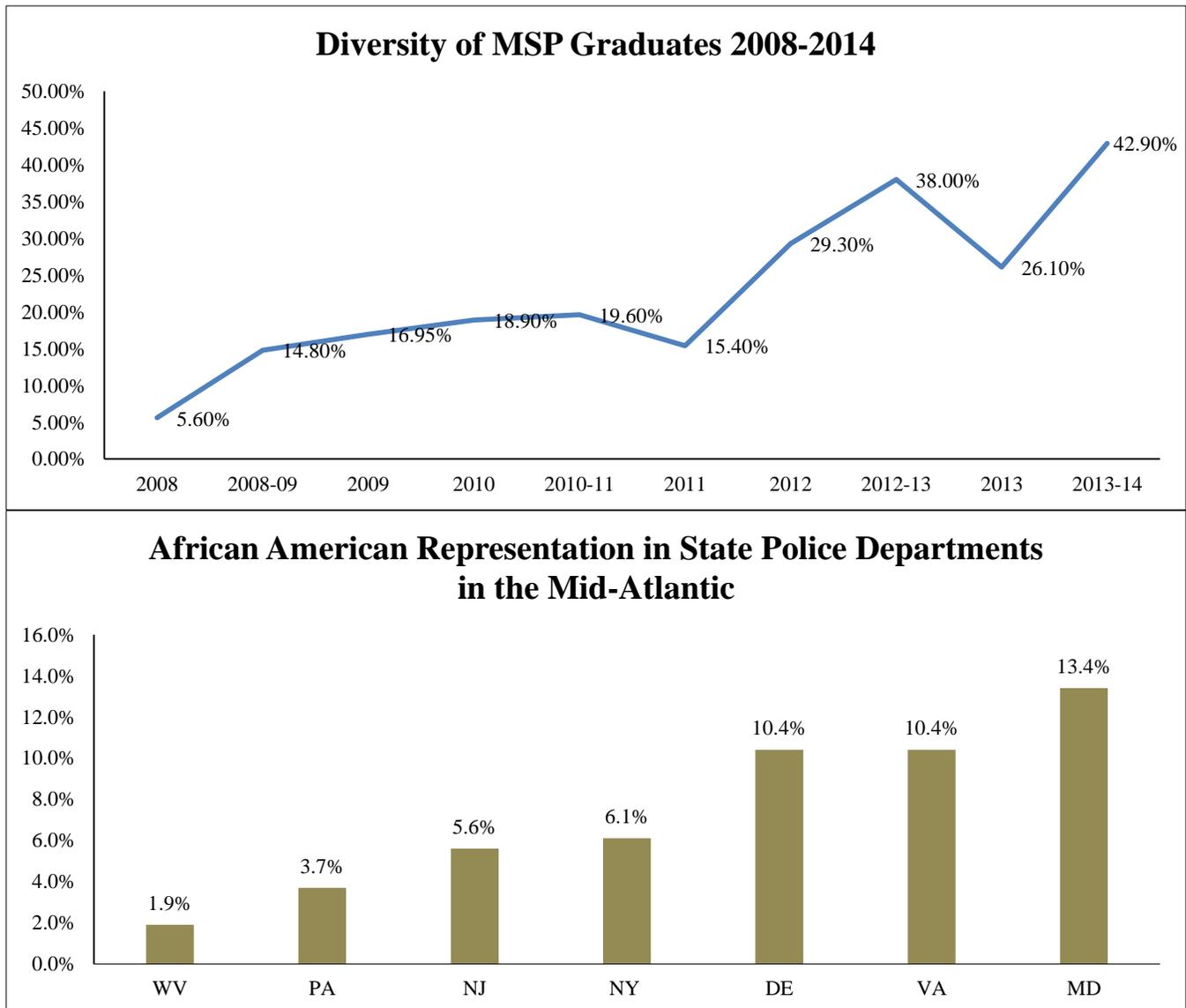
Bernard Burton, 25, was charged last week in connection with two cases that occurred in the same area of Southeast Baltimore — one in July 2012 and one this month. Because the attacks were similar, police ordered a comparison of DNA evidence from both scenes and say they quickly found a link to Burton.

Burton had remained on the street as DNA from the first incident slogged through the system, caught in a backlog that at one point reached 1,500 cases. Though Burton is a convicted felon whose genetic information is in a state database, the case was deemed lower priority because police had no suspect.

Police said they have significantly cut down on the backlog, reducing it to about 440 cases. They also pointed out that the first case was slowed in part because the victim left the country.

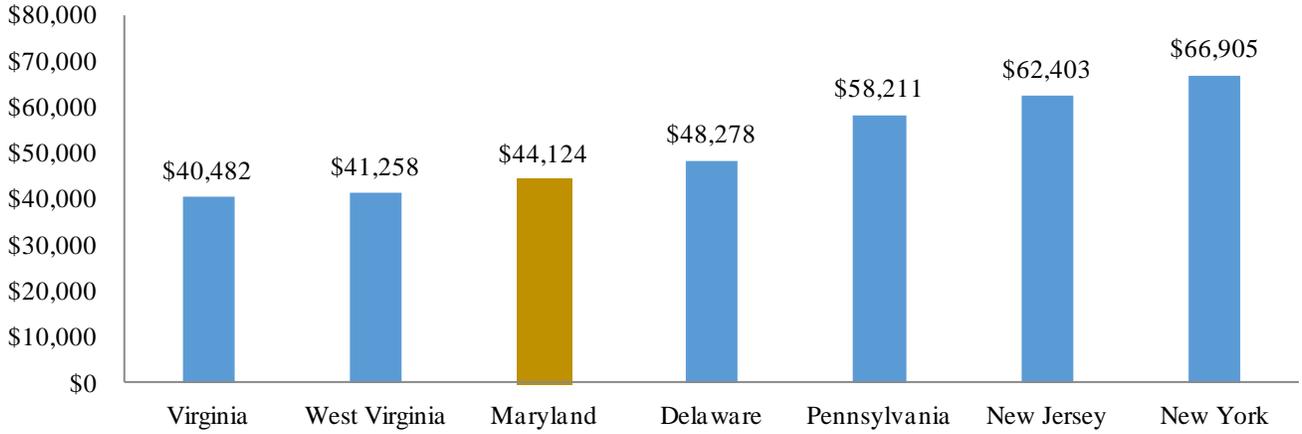
Personnel

- **Diversity Recruitment.** Prior to the October 2011 StateStat session, the Governor mentioned his concern over the fact that graduating classes for MSP, that the Governor had observed, tended to lack diversity. MSP was well aware of this problem and they worked to extend recruitment within the state. MSP, subsequently, followed up at StateStat with recruitment schedules and updates on practices that were being established to increase minority recruitment. As indicated by the data below, from a diversity report released by the Department in January of this year, there has been a 666 percent increase in minority graduates since 2008. MSP indicates that they implemented a targeted event strategy and established recruitment partnerships with several entities statewide allowing for this massive increase in minority graduates. In a comparison of state police departments in the Mid-Atlantic region, Maryland has the highest African American representation.



- **Maryland State Police Starting Salaries.** According to a recently released diversity report from MSP, the average starting salary for an MSP officer is \$44,124. In comparison to state police salaries in other Mid-Atlantic states, Maryland ranks fifth out of seven. In comparison to the starting salaries of local police in the metropolitan areas of Maryland, the state salary ranks last (out of eight). MSP hopes to increase salaries this year but this is pending budget approval.

Average Starting Salary of State Police in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic Region



MSP Starting Salary vs. Metropolitan Counties in Maryland

